



## SOUTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

### Introduction

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). SDIP contains elements of the CALFED Record of Decision for a long-term comprehensive plan to restore the ecological health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system.

DWR and Reclamation have a threefold objective:

- increase water supplies for water contractors and improve operational flexibility of the State Water Project by increasing the diversion through Clifton Court Forebay to 8,500 cfs;
- ensure water quantity and quality for south Delta agricultural diverters; and
- reduce the straying of San Joaquin River salmon into the south Delta.

### Proposed Actions of the SDIP

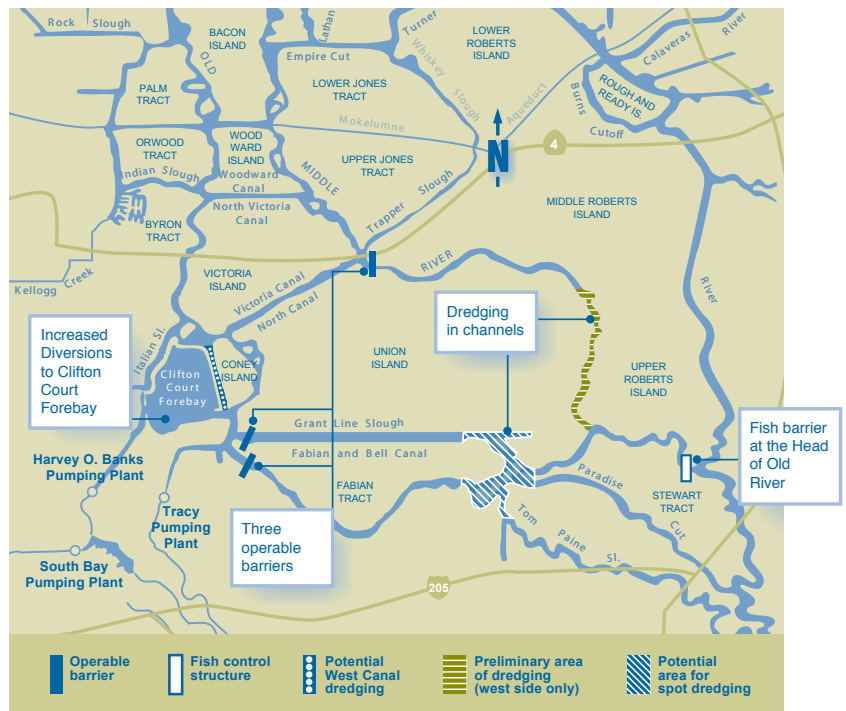
Increasing the diversion through Clifton Court Forebay to 8,500 cfs from the current level of 6,680 cfs would require minor dredging in West Canal to reduce scour and would require the gates into Clifton Court Forebay to be open more than the current operation.

Permanent operable barriers are proposed for Middle River, Grantline Canal and Old River (near the Mountain House development). These barriers allow passage of flood flows but maintain

water levels in the channels during the irrigation season. These barriers would also improve water circulation, which helps to maintain good water quality in the South Delta.

Dredging of the Middle River and Old River areas would improve the access of irrigators to supplies in the south Delta channels. Associated with this dredging is the extension of shallow agricultural intakes to deeper levels in the channels. These actions help to minimize the use of the proposed barriers to protect water levels at times when endangered fish are at risk.

Where Old River splits off of the San Joaquin River (the Head of Old River), a permanent operable fish barrier is proposed. The barrier would be open most of the year and closed to keep young salmon in the San Joaquin River as they outmigrate to the ocean in the spring. The barrier would also be closed in the fall to keep adult salmon in the San Joaquin River as they migrate upstream.



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### Timeline

#### 1980s Initial Efforts

In the early 1980s, DWR, Reclamation and SDWA began to discuss actions to address water issues in the South Delta. In 1987, a program for the annual installation of temporary barriers to improve water levels began.

#### 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)

In 1992, Congress passed the CVPIA to “protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats.” CVPIA authorized Reclamation to construct a permanent barrier at the Head of Old River “in a manner which does not significantly impair the ability of local entities to divert water.”

#### 1994 Bay-Delta Accord

Recognizing that all Bay and Delta water issues are related, the Bay-Delta Accord was signed in 1994, which subsequently established the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Elements of the SDIP are contained in the 2000 CALFED Record of Decision.

#### 2002 SDIP Public Involvement

Public scoping meetings and stakeholder meetings were held in 2002. Input received is being incorporated in the SDIP Draft EIR/EIS.

#### 2004 Delta Improvements Package

The California Bay-Delta Authority is developing a Delta Improvements Package Implementation Plan to advance the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Goals for water quality, ecosystem restoration, Delta levee integrity, and science. The SDIP is an important element of this process.

#### 2004 SDIP Draft EIR/EIS

DWR and Reclamation plan to release a SDIP Draft EIR/EIS in the fall of 2004.

#### 2005 Final EIR/EIS and Decision Documents

A Final EIR/EIS is scheduled to be released in the summer of 2005, followed by the Findings of Fact and Record of Decision in the fall of 2005.

#### 2007 Construction

Construction of the elements of SDIP are planned for completion by 2007.